



C Y C L E S .

1974.

A film by Jordan Belson and Stephen Beck.  
Made with a grant from The American Film  
Institute, in cooperation with The National  
Center for Experiments in Television.

11 minutes, color. Sale \$160. Rent \$15.

CYCLES utilizes ideographic glyphs in declaring  
the cyclic principle.

Stephen Beck

The film CYCLES operates on many levels:

Technically it draws together film and video in a  
totally convincing manner, employing the best qual-  
ities of both, fusing them in an amalgam that over-  
comes any distinction between the two.

As an example of the further development of the  
newly emerging audio-visual language (currently  
called "structuralist" by some scholars) CYCLES  
speaks with an eloquence expressed in an unprecedented  
mix of internal and external imagery (imagery.)

Compositionally, the film derives added force by  
pursuing a structural order identical to its  
thematic subject...cycles, an underlying principle  
behind all phenomena.

Jordan Belson

"Man is an enmeshed, integral part of life on earth  
and the universe, he is linked to the cosmos via his  
bioplasmic body and reacts to changes in the planets  
as well as to the moods and illnesses of others, to  
thought, emotion, sound, light, color, magnetic fields,  
the seasons, cycles of the moon, tides, thunder-  
storms, strong winds, and even levels of noise. If  
there is a change in the universe and environment, a  
resonance is produced in the vital energy of the human  
body which in turn affects the physical body."  
(The Secret Life of Plants)

"...time is rhythmic—the heart beats, the respiration  
goes in and out; time is cyclical."  
(The Parable of the Beast)

"This is, then, a story without beginning or end since  
Self breathes out and in, loses itself and finds itself,  
for always and always, and these periods are sometimes  
known as its days and nights..."  
(Alan Watts: The Basic Myth)